01.03.98	7839.24
04.04.98	7645.47
20.05.98	7536.89
09.01.99	6722.37

The retail selling price of HSD has been revised effective midnight of 27th/ 28th Feb., 1999 due to changes in the duties announced in the Union Budget.

Status of Ninth Five Year Plan

1056. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan has been approved by Government;

(b) if so, how the present plan differ from the earlier one; and

(c) what are the reasons for lowering the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. After approval by the Government, the Ninth Five Year Plan has also been approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in its 48th meeting held on 19th February, 1999.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has taken into account the priorities envisged in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan and also the special emphasis on areas included in the Special Action Plans (SAPs). The focus of SAPs are on (a) doubling of food production in 10 years; (b) expansion and improvement of social infrastructure; (c) expansion and improvement of physical infrastructure and financial services; (d) unveiling a national Water Policy and (e) making India a global Information Technology power.

The Ninth Five Year Plan envisages an average target growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in GDP as against the target growth rate of 7 per cent indicated in the Approach Paper, approved by the National Development Council in January, 1997. Revision of the growth target was to take account of a slow down in the growth rate of the Indian economy to 5.0 per cent in 1997-98 and the expected growth rate of about 5.8 per cent this year. Decline in export growth, shortfalls in the Government revenues and the changes in the global and domestic economic situation were mainly responsible for lower than targetted growth rate in the first two years in the Plan. An average growth rate of around 7 per cent needs to be realised in the remaining three years to achieve the average GDP target growth rate of 6.5 per cent during the Ninth Plan period.

Strategy for Deficit Free Funding

1057. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-items in the Pioneer dated the 14th February, 1999 captioned "Plan Panel for deficit free funding";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has outlined a strategy to finance the entire Ninth Plan with a 33 per cent growth rate in the public sector outlay of Rs. 8,59,200 crores;

(c) if so, what is the basis for depending on this strategy;

(d) whether any fall back strategy been put in place to off-set unexpected hitches in funding; and

(d) if so, the details of the fall-back strategy of the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING